



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,851	12/16/2003	Svante Larsson	4448-4	3173
23117	7590	10/06/2004	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 1100 N GLEBE ROAD 8TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714				SMITH, RICHARD A
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2859

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/735,851	LARSSON, SVANTE	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	R. Alexander Smith	2859	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2003.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-3, 5 and 6 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040318.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

*Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality. Appropriate correction is required.

Page 3, [0006] "characherized" is spelled incorrectly.

*Claim Objections*

2. Claims 5 and 6 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 5:

- a. "position-limiting members" in line 3 should start with --the-- in order to properly refer to their antecedent.
- b. "and" should be deleted.

Claim 6: "one contacting element" and "a facing contacting element" do not properly refer to their antecedents introduced in claim 1.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. 5,228,535 to McCarty.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,961,220 to Som et al.

Som et al. discloses a snap locking angle adjustable device (figures 1-4) comprising a first pivot member (2) and a second pivot member (1), rotatable relative to each other around a pivot axis (through 21); a first contacting element (8) having a first alignment structure (23 and 24) that rotates rigidly with the first pivot member around the pivot axis; a second contacting element (9) having complementary first alignment structure (column 3, lines 62+) that rotates rigidly with the second pivot member around the pivot axis; a spring (12) that, in conjunction with a spring expansion-restricting device (14 and 18), presses the first alignment structure

axially against the complementary first alignment structure wherein the first alignment structure and the complementary first alignment structure align at certain angles between the pivot members, at which the spring force is reduced compared to at angles where they do not align, the spring expansion-restricting device comprises two position-limiting members (13-14 and 17-18), in between which the spring and the contacting elements are placed, rigidly held together by connecting structure, and each one of the contacting elements with its alignment structure is a single unit formed of plastic (column 3, lines 41-44), the first pivot member and the first contacting element are separate components joined to each other by structure (10 and 11) that rigidly connects these components with respect to rotations around the pivot axis, the second pivot member and the second contacting element are separate components joined to each other by structure (the second set of 10's and 11's) that rigidly connects these components with respect to rotations around the pivot axis.

Som et al. does not disclose said contacting elements with the respective alignment structure being formed by a moulding technique, the distance between position-limiting members can be changed by an axial screw coupling of the connecting structure, allowing for adjustment of the spring force, and the combination of a sleeve on one contacting element and a sleeve groove on a facing contacting element, aligns and secures the contacting elements and the pivot members on the pivot axis.

With respect to the contacting elements with the respective alignment structure being formed by a moulding technique: This limitation is a "product by process" limitation and is directed to a step required to form the contacting elements and the respective said alignment structure. Therefore, this step does not provide enough patentable weight since it has been held

that 1) the determination of patentability in "product by process" claims is based on the product itself, even though such claims are limited and defined by the process, and 2) the product in a "product by process" claim is unpatentable if it is the same as, or obvious from a product of the prior art, even if the prior art product was made by a different process. In re Thorpe et al., 227 USPQ 964 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Furthermore, as noted above Som et al. discloses these components are made from plastic.

With respect to claim 5, i.e., the distance between position-limiting members can be changed by an axial screw coupling of the connecting structure, allowing for adjustment of the spring force: In column 3, lines 44-55, Som et al. discloses that the spring is pre-compressed between shoulder 16 and the washer 17 and that the washer 17 is fixed by means of nut 18: Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to change the screw coupling of the connecting structure (at the nut 18) to allow adjusting of the spring force in order to pre-compress the spring sufficiently so that the device can be rotated into use position and storage position by hand as disclosed by Som et al. but not loose enough that the device will rotate out of storage unintentionally.

With respect to claim 6, i.e., the combination of a sleeve on one contacting element and a sleeve groove on a facing contacting element, aligns and secures the contacting elements and the pivot members on the pivot axis: Som et al. discloses in figure 3 for the above embodiment that a bushing 19 is used around one of the positioning-limiting members (bolt 13) and further discloses in figure 5 a different embodiment wherein one of the contacting elements include a sleeve 41 and the other includes a sleeve hole 42 wherein a groove is formed by said hole and by element 2 in order to seal the device from the environment. Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the sleeve and sleeve hole instead of a bushing, both as taught by Som et al., since Som et al. discloses that both can be used to seal the device from the environment and since the inclusion of the sleeve and hole would reduce the number of parts needed in assembly. With respect to the applicant's sleeve groove being on a facing contacting element versus Som's being formed by the facing contacting element in combination with plate 2: The sleeve groove, as claimed by Applicant, is considered to be equivalent to the sleeve groove, as disclosed by Som et al., since: 1) neither non-obvious nor unexpected results, i.e., results which are different in kind and not in degree from the results of the prior art, will be obtained if one is used instead of the other, as long as the contacting elements are joined and properly sealed, as already taught Som et al.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited in PTO-892 and not mentioned above disclose related devices.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Alexander Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-2251. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



R. Alexander Smith  
Examiner  
Technology Center 2800

RAS  
September 30, 2004